

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

1536

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

12/04/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

04/24/2018

Report Title

KARAC Annual Report

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The Council met to hear the call for proposals to change fishing and shellfish regulations for Federal public lands in the Kodiak/Aleutians Region of Alaska, the call for Priority Information Needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and the call for Proposals for Non-Rural Determination. The Council also heard reports from Federal, State and tribal officials on fish and wildlife as well as other issues important to subsistence in the region.	02/22/2018	02/23/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$102,580.00	\$105,657.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$10,740.00	\$11,062.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$2,311.00	\$2,380.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$19,748.00	\$20,340.00
18d. Total	\$135,379.00	\$139,439.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.00	1.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council typically meets two times a year to review and make recommendations on a number of matters: rural and non-rural determination, fish and wildlife regulatory proposals, and proposals before the Alaska Board of Game and Board of Fisheries. The Council also reviews and approves the previous fiscal year report to the Subsistence Board during these meetings. The Federal Subsistence Board depends on information gathered at the Council's meetings and on the Council's recommendations to make decisions that directly affect rural residents' food supply and culture.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach/recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. These panels then rate and rank the applicants according to standards set by the Board. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance the points of view represented on the council with the council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also considers other factors such as geographic representation within the region. The Secretaries must concur regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 9 months to complete.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Meetings normally occur twice each fiscal year with additional meetings as needed to

address particular issues. There was only one meeting in FY 2018. Meetings are held in the region as often as possible so residents of the region have an opportunity to attend these meetings and provide public testimony and local knowledge of the resources for proposed subsistence hunting, trapping and fishing regulations. The Federal Subsistence Board depends on information gathered at the Council's meetings and on the Council's recommendations to make decisions that directly affect rural residents' food supply and culture.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities of the region, and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska. The members of the Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Regional Advisory Council is a vital link between the Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Not applicable - meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

N/A

Designated Federal Officer

Zach Stevenson Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Berns, Melissa	12/03/2015	12/02/2018	subsistence user	Representative Member
Chernoff, Coral	12/10/2014	12/02/2020	subsistence user	Representative Member
Holmes, Patrick	02/28/2014	12/02/2019	retired biologist	Representative Member
Koso, Richard	02/28/2014	12/02/2019	subsistence user/commercial fisherman/assistant big game guide	Representative Member
Price, Christopher	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Rohrer, Samuel	02/28/2014	12/02/2019	big game and sport fishing guide	Representative Member

Shelikoff, Antone	02/28/2014	12/02/2019	subsistence user	Representative Member
Simeonoff, Speridon	12/03/2015	12/02/2018	subsistence user/commercial fisherman	Representative Member
Skinner, Rebecca	12/03/2014	12/02/2020	attorney	Representative Member
Trumble, Della	12/03/2015	12/02/2018	subsistence user/coordinator for Aleut Marine Mammal Commission	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents in Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands and with limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board, which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair. The Board is the decisionmaking body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop proposals, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of their Councils and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council provides recommendations and information to the Federal Subsistence Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Council meets at least twice a year; however, individual members may represent the Council at any time to serve on a committee or working group. Council chairs attend at least one Board meeting a year to present the recommendations of the Council and provide knowledge and advice to the Board. There was only one meeting in FY 2018 because the Fall 2017 meeting fell in FY 2017, and the Fall 2018 meeting will fall in the next fiscal year (FY 2019).

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain.

Without the Council, the program would need to greatly increase staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. In most fiscal years, the Board adopts a vast majority of the Council's recommendations which may lower resource management costs. Council business requires a broad outreach to the public for comment in a region so vast that it reaches into the Eastern Hemisphere. As a result, the geographic distribution of this Council makes it the most expensive for travel in the Federal Subsistence Program on a per-member basis.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

70

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Council made 8 recommendations during FY 2018. The Council's recommendation regarding proposed changes to Federal wildlife regulations addressed Wildlife Proposal WP 18-20, seeking to extend the caribou hunt season and change from 1 bull to 1 caribou in Unit 9D (adopted with Office of Subsistence Management modification). The Council took no action on Wildlife Proposal WP18-51, so no report is provided on that proposal. The Council's Annual Report recommendations addressed 1) Refuge Staffing and Retention at the Kodiak and Izembek National Wildlife Refuges; 2) Council Meetings in Communities; 3) Emperor Goose Hunt Season; 4) Outreach for Tribal/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Consultations; 5) Training for New Council Members; 6) Sea Otter Predation on Shellfish; and 7) Crayfish in the Buskin Watershed. Additionally, the Council also addressed a Special Action Request regarding a Unimak Island Caribou Hunt; a Call for Fisheries Proposals; Non-Rural Determination Proposals; and Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects received and their relationship to the Council's Priority Information Needs. Note: Prior to 2007 Council recommendations were not tracked.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife within the region for subsistence on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not

supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the "805(c) Letter." The Board considers recommendations in the Council's annual report and makes a formal reply. Board decisions regarding other matters for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Subsistence Regional Coordinator or the Council chair.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities



Reallocated resources



Issued new regulation



Proposed legislation



Approved grants or other payments



Other



Action Comments

New subsistence wildlife regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries regulatory proposals, information needed within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A